

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**April 11, 2005**

Members present: Robert Staton, Alex Martin, Traci Young Cooper, Dennis Drew, Senator Mike Fair, Wallace Hall, Susan Marlowe, Representative Joe Neal, Neil Robinson, Harold Stowe, Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Representative Robert Walker, Judy Williams, Larry Wilson

**I. Welcome and Introductions** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**II. Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of February 14, 2005, were approved as distributed.

**III. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. Three clarifying amendments to the high school ratings calculation were adopted in the form distributed with the meeting materials.

Mr. Wilson informed the EOC of several studies the staff is undertaking including the five-year match, a study of stability within the advanced score range and its impact on the ratings calculation and studies of persistent performance at the same level (i.e., students scoring Below Basic for multiple years and schools rated at the same level for multiple years).

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Mr. Staton asked Mr. Stowe to report for the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee. Mr. Stowe outlined the Senate Finance Committee (SFC) actions on the state budget, noting that there were only minor changes to the House-passed budget. The Education Finance Act (EFA) base student cost is funded at \$2,290 with the SFC restoring the local effort requirement. Programs in the Education Improvement Act (EIA) were funded at the same level as passed by the House; many Education Accountability Act (EAA) programs were funded from the EIA revenues, rather than the lottery revenues. All but one EOC recommended proviso was adopted.

Superintendent Tenenbaum indicated that the State Department of Education (SDE) is requesting an amendment to the proviso focusing on the alternative technical assistance and asked for EOC support. A school district has contacted the Superintendent indicating that \$300,000 is insufficient to support the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP). There were a number of questions, particularly about the impact of eliminating a cap on the funding level. No action was taken.

Mr. Stowe provided information on the request for proposals for a study of extended learning time.

C. Parental and Community Involvement Mr. Hall reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the subcommittee discussion of the parental survey administered each spring. He noted that the Subcommittee is interested in the response rate, ways to increase the rate and differences among school levels. He raised concerns about the level of satisfaction with home and school relations and the ways in which the SDE would incorporate the findings into the training it provides.

D. Public Awareness        Mr. Martin asked Mr. Stowe to provide the PAIRS update. Mr. Stowe outlined the launch held in February and the initial efforts to identify affiliates and provide resources. The Advisory Board and staff are working toward a number of partnerships in support of the PAIRS mission. Mr. Martin noted the continued support of the publishers and EOC appreciation for that.

E. Administration        Dr. Anderson provided an update on the *Common Ground* process.

Superintendent Tenenbaum distributed materials and asked Dr. Siskind to inform the EOC of SDE actions with regard to the Testing Task Force recommendations. Dr. Siskind reviewed those, dividing the recommendations among four categories: ongoing changes; changes requiring legislative action; changes contingent upon funding; and changes requiring further psychometric study.

Members raised questions about the savings projected and the reallocation of funds toward changes. Questions were raised about actions that should be taking place across several years. Mr. Wilson expressed his concerns about the use of sampling within the science and social studies assessments. Mr. Walker questioned SDE support for the recommendations and the need for information that outlines the implementation or indicates why the recommendation could not be implemented.

**IV. Report on Technical Assistance**    Dr. Suber, SDE, introduced representatives of two schools: Karen Bryant from Fairfield Primary and Kenneth Mance from Scotts Branch High School.

Ms. Bryant outlined the process of involving curriculum and teacher specialists in the ongoing improvement of instructional programs and the importance of sustained assistance over time. She was asked about the involvement of parents, efforts to continue the instructional practices after the technical assistance personnel left the school. Mr. Wilson indicated his support for multi-year technical assistance to ensure that a “roller coaster” did not occur in either student performance or school ratings.

Mr. Mance introduced the technical assistance team at Scott’s Branch High School. These included Doris Baskett, Alice Brewington, Bonnie Disney and Paulette Hipps. He detailed the school’s performance before technical assistance, the strategies introduced (both academic and motivational) and the results evidence in student performance. Members raised questions about morale, student motivation and community expectations.

Mr. Staton thanked the presenters and Dr. Suber for their work and for the presentation.

The EOC, upon the motion of Mr. Martin, went into Executive Session.

The EOC returned to open session.

Mr. Martin moved and the EOC concurred that the contract with Chernoff Newman and Associates be extended for another year.

The EOC adjourned.